DEEPAK PHENOLICS

RESPONSIBLE CHEMISTRY

IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT

SANGAATH PROGRAM









SoulAce
Path to Sustainability

SOULACE CONSULTING PVT. LTD.

FY 2024-2025 Implementing Partner: Deepak Foundation

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ABBREVIATIONS

CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
OECD-DAC	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development- Development Assistance Committee.
DBT	Direct Benefit Transfer
PRD	Pre - Requisite Documents
PMJDY	Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana
NFSA	National Food Security Act
PM-KISAN	Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
NSAP	National Social Assistance Programme
IPA	Isopropyl Alcohol
SHG	Self-Help Group

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Sangaath Project was initiated to address these gaps by strengthening last-mile delivery and facilitating access to government schemes and Pre - Requisite Documents (PRDs) at the community level. A significant proportion of beneficiaries faced challenges such as lack of awareness, procedural complexity, and incomplete documentation prior to the project. Additionally, many beneficiaries relied entirely on external support to understand and access schemes, indicating gaps in existing service delivery systems. The project provided end-to-end support, including awareness generation, beneficiary identification, documentation assistance, application submission, and follow-up with government departments. The Sangaath Project strengthened grassroots access by enabling rural beneficiaries to avail government schemes. Through community-based outreach, digital assistance, and facilitation support, the Sangaath Project ensured timely, transparent, and equitable access to welfare entitlements, thereby contributing to improved socio-economic well-being.

Access to government welfare schemes in India continues to be a challenge for rural and vulnerable populations due to low awareness, complex procedures, digital barriers, and documentation requirements. Although multiple schemes under initiatives such as Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and social protection programs aim to improve financial inclusion and livelihood security, last-mile access remains limited.

PROJECT DETAILS

Project Duration
FY 2024-2025

Assessment Year
FY 2025-2026

Implementation Partner
Deepak Foundation

Total Beneficiaries
28,950 (10037 Households)

Project Locations
Bharuch (43 villages) & Morbi (21 villages)

Sample Size

400

Alignment with the SDGs



Alignment with National Policies:

- Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) Mission, 2013
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), 2014
- National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013
- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), 2019
- National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), 1995

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Awareness camps, scheme facilitation camps, and PRD support camps were organized

A pilot outreach initiative was implemented through the Sangaath Rath to enhance last-mile awareness and facilitate scheme applications across multiple villages.

Mahila Vrutika training programs were conducted for women across villages, along with large-scale women's awareness programs that encouraged participation, capacity building, and formation of self-help groups.

Participated in government-led platforms such as Krushi Mahotsav were undertaken to strengthen collaboration with district administration and line departments for effective scheme delivery.

Activities such as plantation drives and cleanliness awareness rallies were conducted to promote environmental sustainability and community participation, particularly involving school students and local residents.

KEY FINDINGS

Strong reach among vulnerable groups: A majority of beneficiaries belonged to farmers (45.8%) and older age groups (over 70% above 40 years), indicating effective targeting of high-need populations.

High level of awareness through the project: Nearly all respondents (99.5%) identified project staff as their primary source of information, demonstrating strong awareness generation.

Improved access to government schemes: A significant proportion (73.5%) successfully accessed government scheme benefits, reflecting effective facilitation.

Addressing pre-existing access gaps: About 20% of respondents had previously failed or never applied for schemes, highlighting barriers that the project helped overcome.

Reduced administrative burden: Around 65% of beneficiaries did not need to visit government offices, indicating improved accessibility and convenience.

Efficient service delivery: A large majority (83.2%) received benefits within three months, supported by strong follow-up (99.5%).

High satisfaction and impact: Most respondents reported positive experiences, with over 85% rating support as excellent and 99.5% reporting improved family well-being.



COMMUNITY CONNECT CENTER

KEY IMPACTS

Continued access to schemes (50.8% cash and 35.4% livelihood support) strengthens household income and reduces long-term economic vulnerability.

With 99.5% reporting positive impact, beneficiaries are likely to experience lasting improvements in living conditions and quality of life.

High scheme uptake and multiple scheme access indicate long-term linkage with government support systems.

Nearly all respondents (99.8%) expressed willingness to apply for future schemes, reflecting increased confidence and proactive engagement.

With 44% female participation and engagement in awareness and livelihood activities, the project contributes to long-term gender inclusion.

High satisfaction levels (94.5% very satisfied) and transparent processes foster long-term trust in service providers.



CONVERSATION WITH SANGAATH FACILITATOR

01. INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND AND NEED OF THE PROGRAM

The vulnerabilities faced by the rural communities, especially those below the poverty line, such as lack of food and nutritional security, low purchasing power, low and stagnating incomes, lack of access to public health system incurring high out of pocket expenditure predispose these communities into the vicious cycle of poverty. Well-designed social safety nets can help prevent negative impacts by ensuring access to good food, enhancing health care, and promoting access to other necessary services. Social safety nets can help tackle both the immediate and underlying causes of poverty and malnutrition by reducing vulnerability, protecting incomes, crops, and assets, ensuring basic needs and food security, and supporting access to health services and safe drinking water and better sanitation. Therefore, social protection becomes imperative to shield these communities from social risks.

The intervention aim of the foundation aims at developing sustainable models of development by strengthening the Government service utilization and empowering communities for change.

ABOUT THE COMPANY: DEEPAK PHENOLICS LIMITED

Deepak Phenolics Limited is a part of the Deepak Group and operates as a leading manufacturer of petrochemical intermediates. As per official company information, it is engaged in the production of key chemicals such as phenol, acetone, and isopropyl alcohol (IPA), which are widely used across multiple industries including pharmaceuticals, adhesives, paints, resins, and sanitizers. The company is known for its integrated manufacturing approach and advanced production technologies, enabling large-scale and efficient chemical production. Its facilities are located in Gujarat, India, with operations designed to meet both domestic and international demand.

Its product portfolio primarily serves as a backbone for various downstream industries, contributing to sectors such as construction, automotive, healthcare, and consumer goods. Through continuous expansion and technological advancement, Deepak Phenolics plays an important role in strengthening India's self-reliance in the chemical sector while supporting both industrial growth and export markets. Deepak Phenolics focuses on delivering high-quality chemical products, maintaining sustainable practices, and contributing to the development of the chemical manufacturing ecosystem in India.

ABOUT IMPLEMENTING PARTNER: DEEPAK FOUNDATION

Deepak Foundation is a non-profit organization established in 1982 in Vadodara, Gujarat, with a focus on promoting sustainable development among rural and underserved communities. It was founded with the objective of improving the quality of life of communities living around industrial and rural areas by addressing critical needs such as healthcare, education, and livelihood support. The foundation works towards creating a sustainable and inclusive environment by strengthening access to essential services and enabling community development. Its initiatives are designed to improve awareness and access to government schemes, ensuring that eligible beneficiaries receive social entitlements and benefits.



02 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

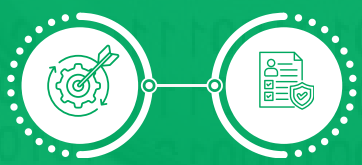
PROJECT DETAILS

This chapter outlines the research methodology used to evaluate the Sangaath Project, which focuses on facilitating access to government schemes and pre - requisite documents (PRDs) for rural and vulnerable communities. The project aims to bridge gaps in awareness, accessibility, and service delivery by providing end-to-end support in availing welfare entitlements.

The assessment examines the effectiveness of the project in improving awareness, simplifying application processes, and enhancing access to government schemes. It also evaluates the extent to which the intervention has reduced barriers such as lack of information, procedural complexity, and documentation challenges. Additionally, the study captures the socio-economic profile of beneficiaries and assesses how access to schemes has contributed to reducing financial burden and improving their life.

OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

To assess the effectiveness of the project in improving awareness and access to government schemes and PRDs



Eligible beneficiaries of Households of the catchment areas to be linked with selected government schemes and safety net programmes.

RESEARCH DESIGN

A Mixed-Method Approach is adopted, integrating both quantitative and qualitative research techniques to provide a comprehensive understanding of the project's impact. This approach ensures a holistic assessment of awareness levels, access to schemes, service delivery efficiency, and beneficiary satisfaction.

APPLICATION OF QUANTITATIVE TECHNIQUES

The study employs structured surveys conducted with 400 beneficiaries, selected using an appropriate sampling approach to ensure representation across different categories such as farmers, women, and elderly populations. The quantitative analysis focuses on key indicators such as demographic profile, awareness and access to schemes, type of support and time taken to receive benefits, etc.

APPLICATION OF QUALITATIVE TECHNIQUES

The qualitative methodology involves in depth interviews with beneficiaries, and with stakeholders. These interviews provide deeper insights into challenges faced in accessing schemes before the intervention, role of facilitation support in overcoming barriers, and impact of scheme benefits on household well-being and livelihoods.

ENSURING TRIANGULATION

To enhance the credibility and reliability of the findings, triangulation is employed by integrating quantitative survey data with qualitative insights from beneficiary experiences and field observations. This approach helps validate the findings and provides a more comprehensive understanding of the project's effectiveness.

SAMPLING FRAMEWORK

The sampling framework consists of 400 beneficiaries who have received support under the project, ensuring representation across key categories such as farmers, women, elderly, students, and informal workers. In addition, selected beneficiaries were engaged for qualitative inputs to capture diverse experiences and perspectives, ensuring a well-rounded assessment of the intervention.

DATA COLLECTION

Primary data collection was conducted using structured questionnaires and beneficiary interactions. The tools were designed to capture information related to demographic profile, awareness levels, access to schemes, types of benefits received, service delivery processes, and overall satisfaction. Qualitative inputs were gathered through case narratives, success stories through this initiative and field observations to complement quantitative findings. Care was taken to ensure accuracy, consistency, and completeness of the collected data.

STAKEHOLDERS

Key stakeholders include project beneficiaries (farmers, women, elderly, and other vulnerable groups), Deepak Foundation and Sangaath project staff and facilitators, government bodies and local institutions involved in scheme delivery. Their inputs are essential for assessing awareness generation, service delivery efficiency, and the overall effectiveness of the project.

COMMITMENT TO RESEARCH ETHICS

The research team adhered to strict ethical guidelines, ensuring confidentiality, informed consent, voluntary participation, and respect for respondents. Maintaining these ethical standards was essential to ensure the credibility, integrity, and reliability of the research findings.



CENTER WAITING ROOM

03 MAJOR FINDING AND ASSESSMENT OF IMPACT

This chapter presents the key findings of the study and assesses the overall impact of the project on beneficiaries and communities.

RESPONDENT PROFILE

CHART 1: AGE-WISE DISTRIBUTION

Age-Group	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Below 20 years	28	7.0
20-30 years	33	8.2
31-40 years	45	11.2
41-50 years	131	32.8
51-60 years	94	23.5
Above 60 years	69	17.3
Total	**400**	**100.0**

The largest group (32.8%) falls within 41–50 years, reflecting a strong working-age population engagement.

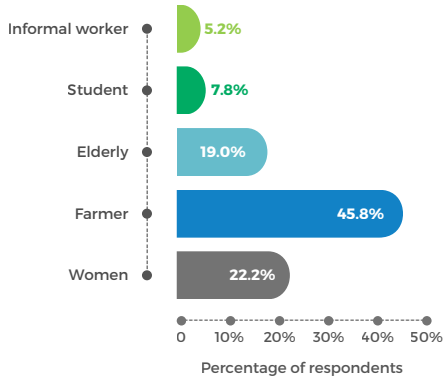
CHART 2: GENDER-WISE DISTRIBUTION

Gender	No. of respondents	% of respondents
Female	176	44.0
Male	224	56.0
Total	**400**	**100.0**

The gender distribution shows moderate female participation (44%). This is supported by qualitative evidence where women actively participated in awareness programs, self-help group formation, and livelihood training initiatives, indicating increasing engagement of women in accessing schemes and services.

CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS

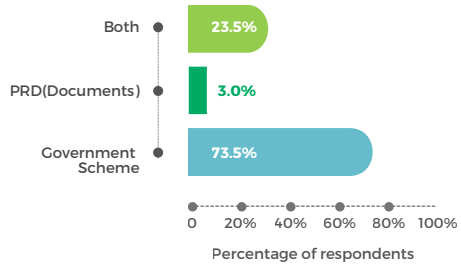
CHART 3: CATEGORY OF RESPONDENTS



Highest of the respondents are farmers (45.8%), followed by women (22.2%) and elderly (19%), indicating the program's strong alignment with rural and vulnerable populations. This is consistent with project documentation highlighting that rural communities, especially farmers and vulnerable groups, face income instability, food insecurity, and lack of access to social protection, making them key target groups .

NATURE OF BENEFITS ACCESSED

CHART 4: TYPE OF BENEFITS RECEIVED



73.5% of respondents accessed benefits for government schemes, while 23.5% benefited from both scheme access and PRD documentation support. This indicates that the project primarily functions as a facilitator enabling access to entitlements. Qualitative evidence supports this, showing that large numbers of applications were successfully submitted and linked to government schemes, demonstrating the project's role in strengthening access and utilization of services .



AWARENESS & ACCESS TO SCHEMES

CHART 5: SOURCE OF INFORMATION

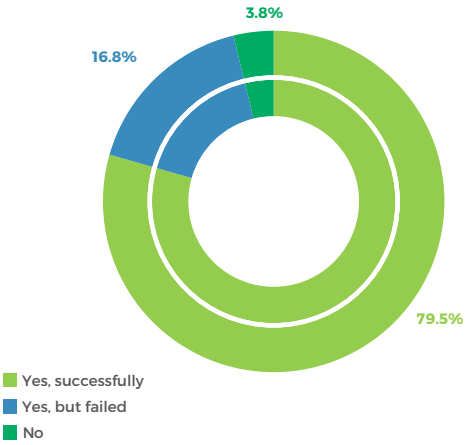
Source of Information	No. of respondents	% of respondents
A. Sangaath project staff	398	99.5
B. Panchayat / Sarpanch	1	0.3
C. ASHA / Anganwadi	1	0.3
Total	**400**	**100.0**

With 99.5% relying on Sangaath project staff, the project serves as the primary source of awareness. This is further reinforced by qualitative activities such as awareness camps, community meetings, and outreach initiatives conducted to disseminate information on schemes and services .



PRIOR APPLICATION ATTEMPTS

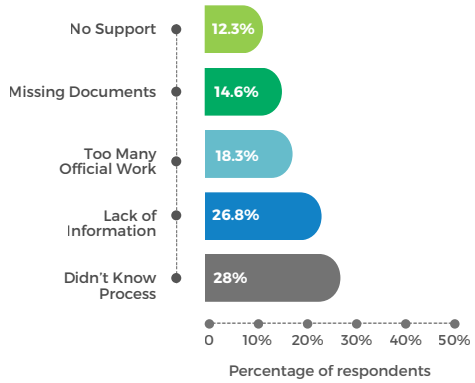
CHART 6: PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO TRIED APPLYING FOR SCHEMES BEFORE THE PROJECT



Before the intervention, 79.5% had applied for schemes successfully. However, 16.8% had failed and 3.8% had never applied, indicating that a small segment faced barriers in accessing benefits.

DIFFICULTIES IN ACCESSING SCHEMES

CHART 7: KEY DIFFICULTIES FACED IN ACCESSING SCHEMES EARLIER

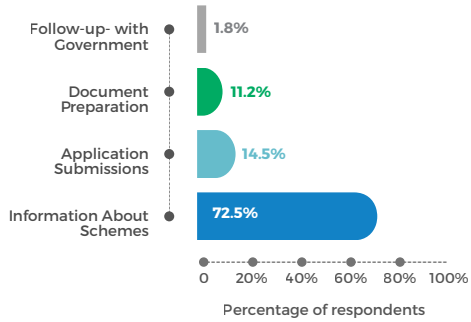


Key challenges included 54.8% lack of awareness and 18.3% procedural complexity. Qualitative case evidence further illustrates this, where beneficiaries reported repeated failed attempts to access schemes due to documentation gaps and lack of guidance before receiving support from the project .

Additionally, all respondents confirmed that scheme details were clearly explained, demonstrating strong effectiveness of the project in addressing these barriers.

SERVICE DELIVERY & PROCESS EFFICIENCY

CHART 8: TYPES OF SUPPORT RECEIVED FROM SANGAATH

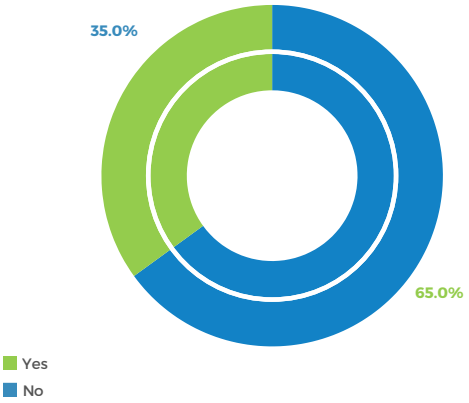


72.5% respondents required information support, indicating that awareness is the primary gap.



VISITS TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES

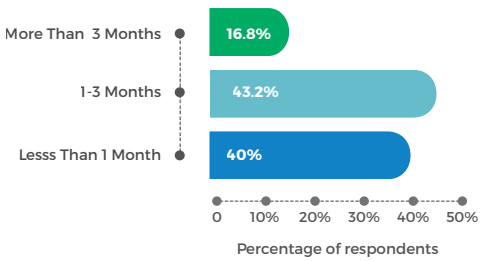
CHART 9: REQUIREMENT OF VISITING GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO AVAIL BENEFITS



Reduced need for office visits reflects improved accessibility. Qualitative insights show that facilitators supported beneficiaries at the community level, minimizing the need for repeated visits to government offices.

TIME TAKEN TO RECEIVE BENEFITS

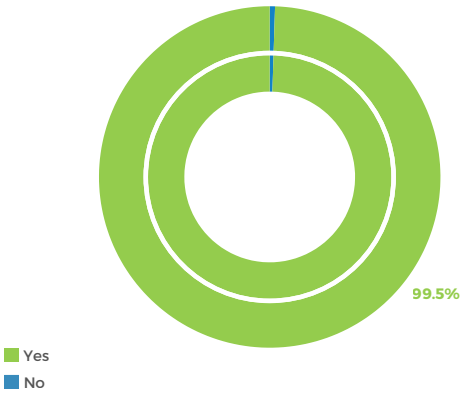
CHART 10: TIME TAKEN TO RECEIVE SCHEME BENEFITS



83.2% of respondents received benefits within three months, including 40% within one month. This reflects efficient processing timelines, supported by qualitative evidence showing high rates of application submission and successful clearance within the project period.

FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT

CHART 11: FOLLOW-UP SUPPORT PROVIDED BY SANGAATH STAFF



An overwhelming 99.5% of respondents received follow-up support, demonstrating a strong commitment to end-to-end service delivery. This level of engagement ensures that applications are not only submitted but also successfully processed.

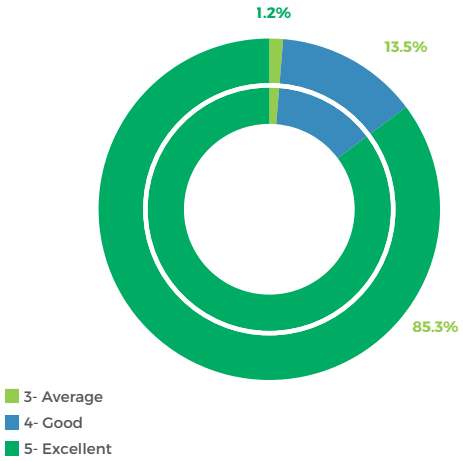
TRANSPARENCY

All respondents reported that no money was paid to access benefits, indicating a fully transparent process, which is a critical success factor in public service delivery.



OUTCOME & BENEFICIARY EXPERIENCE

CHART 12: OVERALL EXPERIENCE WITH SANGAATH TEAM SUPPORT



The program has achieved very high satisfaction levels, with 85.3% rating their experience as excellent, 13.5% as good and only 1.2% rated as average. This reflects the quality of support, responsiveness, and ease of access facilitated by the project team. Qualitative testimonials further support this, where beneficiaries expressed gratitude for assistance in accessing schemes like PM Yashasvi Scholarship Scheme, Widow Pension Scheme, Vajpayee Bankable Yojana and Namo Shree Yojana

SCHEME COVERAGE (NARRATIVE INSIGHT)

BENEFICIARIES ACCESSED A DIVERSE RANGE OF SCHEMES ACROSS:

Agriculture and livelihood support- PM Kisan, Krushi Rahat, Krushi Sahay, Seeds Yojana, and I-Khedut.

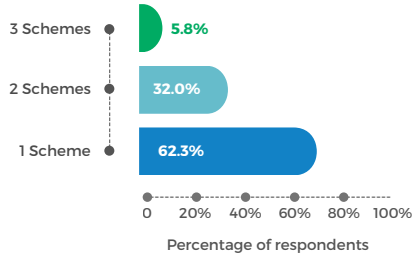
Women and child welfare- Vidhva Sahay, Vahali Dikri, Sukanya, Kuvarbai nu Mameru, Matru Shakti Yojana, Palak Mata-Pita Yojana, and Mukhyamantri schemes.

Basic services such as fuel, ration, and infrastructure Ujjwala /Ujavala Gas Sahay Yojana, Ration Card updates/KYC, Solar Pump/Pump systems, and related livelihood kits.

This diversity indicates that the project contributes to comprehensive socio-economic development, rather than addressing a single issue.

SCHEME UPTAKE & CONVERSION

CHART 13: NUMBERS OF SCHEMES APPLIED WITH SUPPORT FROM SANGAATH



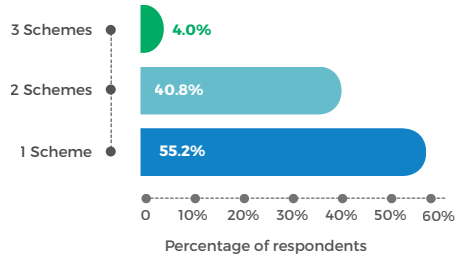
62.3% of respondents applied for one scheme, while 32% applied for two schemes and 5.8% for three schemes. This suggests that most beneficiaries begin with a single scheme and gradually expand their engagement.



SCHEMES SUCCESSFULLY AVAILED WITH PROGRAM SUPPORT

(DISCREPANCY IN THE DATA- AVAILED SCHEMES MORE THAN THE APPLIED SCHEMES)

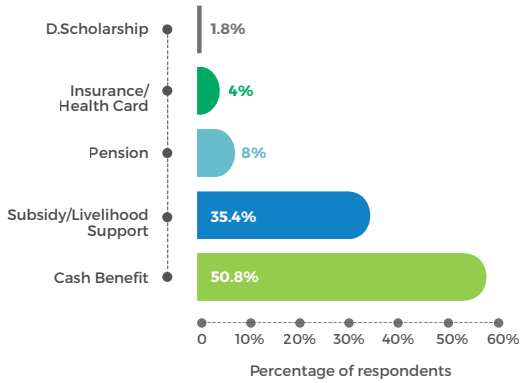
CHART 14: NUMBER OF SCHEMES SUCCESFULLY AVAILED WITH PROGRAME SUPPORT



A strong success rate is observed, with 44.8% of respondents successfully availing more than one scheme. This indicates effective facilitation, follow-up, and conversion from application to benefit realization.

TYPE OF BENEFITS RECEIVED

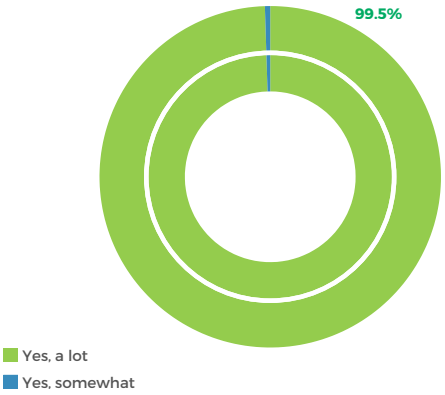
CHART 15: TYPE OF BENEFITS RECEIVED BY BENEFICIARIES



The benefits are largely cash-based as 50.8% received cash and 35.4% livelihood-oriented , directly contributing to improved income security and economic stability. Smaller proportions received other benefits- 8% pensions, 4% insurance, and 1.8% scholarships, indicating coverage across multiple dimensions of welfare.

IMPACT ON BENEFICIARIES

CHART 16: PERCEIVED IMPACT OF BENEFITS ON FAMILY WELL-BEING



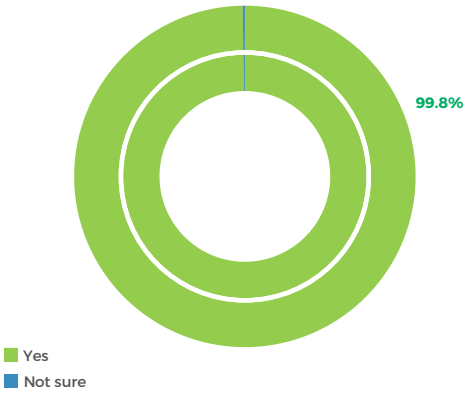
Nearly all respondents (**99.5%**) reported that the benefits had a significant positive impact on their family well-being.

All respondents reported a **reduction in financial burden**, highlighting the program's direct contribution to economic relief and improved household resilience. Qualitative case evidence reinforces this, showing that beneficiaries shared how this valuable training helped them develop new skills and opened income-generating opportunities.



FUTURE READINESS & BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE

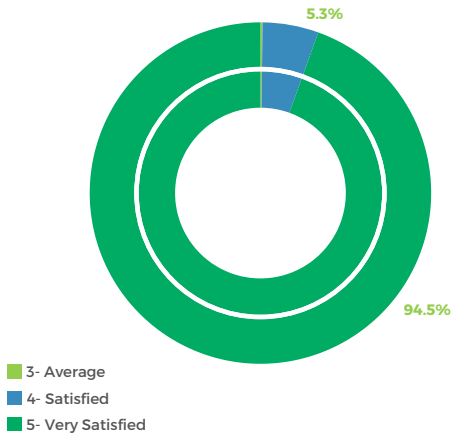
CHART 17: WILLINGNESS TO APPLY FOR OTHER GOVERNMENT SCHEMES IN FUTURE



An overwhelming 99.8% of respondents expressed willingness to apply for additional schemes in the future, indicating increased awareness, confidence, and empowerment.

SATISFACTION LEVEL

CHART 18: SATISFACTION LEVEL WITH SANGAATH SUPPORT



The satisfaction levels are exceptionally high, with 94.5% of respondents being very satisfied and 5.3% satisfied. This reinforces the program's success in delivering impactful, accessible, and beneficiary-centric services. Exceptionally high satisfaction levels are further validated by qualitative feedback and testimonials, where beneficiaries acknowledged the project's role in simplifying processes and enabling access to essential services.



04. CASE STUDIES



Beneficiary of the scheme : Consent letter
Beneficiary : Imranbhai Gulamrasul Vadaviya

Age : 35 years

Village : Rajavadla

Scheme Benefited : Vajpayee Bankable Yojana

Imranbhai Vadavia, a resident of Rajavadla village, supports a family of five members through agriculture and small-scale retail transportation. His income primarily comes from farming and transportation services. When he needed to purchase a vehicle for his business, he was unaware of any available government schemes that could assist him. Fortunately, a dedicated Sangaath Project facilitator from the Deepak Foundation informed him about the Vajpayee Bankable Scheme and helped him complete all the necessary paperwork.

Within a month of submitting the application form through the Sangaath Project Facilitator, Imranbhai's application was approved, securing a subsidy of Rs. 1,00,000. The total cost of the vehicle was Rs. 6,45,000, leaving Rs. 5,45,000 to be covered by a loan.

Owning this vehicle has significantly improved his family's income, and Imranbhai expresses his heartfelt gratitude to the Deepak Foundation and Deepak Phenolics limited for their assistance and for enabling him to receive financial support through the scheme.



Hemiben Nagjibhai Vanesiya

Age : 69 years

Village : Jetparda

Scheme Benefited : Ganga Swarupa Pension Scheme

Hemiben, a resident of Jetparda village, lost her husband 13 years ago. She lives with her three family members and is a housewife, while her son is unable to work due to mental illness. Under these challenging circumstances, managing household expenses became extremely difficult.

Determined to access widow pension benefits, Hemiben made several attempts at the Village Panchayat, Taluka offices, Mamlatdar office, and other administrative bodies. However, she faced repeated rejections and setbacks, preventing her from securing the support she desperately needed.

The Sangaath Project facilitator provided her with the necessary guidance, helped her complete the missing documents, and successfully submitted her widow pension application to the government.

Within a month of submission, her application was approved, and she now receives Rs. 1,250 per month as financial assistance. Hemiben is deeply grateful to Deepak Phenolics, Deepak Foundation, and the Sangaath Project for their support in helping her secure this essential benefit.



Reshma Amish Solanki

Age : 25 years

Village : Muller

Scheme Benefited : Namo Shree yojana

Convergence amount : 12000

Reshma Amish Solanki, a young woman from Muller village, faced serious health challenges during her second pregnancy. Originally living in her in-laws' village, she returned to her maternal home for delivery due to health concerns. With a five-year-old child already, Reshma's pregnancy required special care, as her blood count was low, and her baby's weight was below normal. To ensure she received the necessary medical benefits, her documents were successfully transferred from Samani village to Muller, allowing her to access timely healthcare under the Namo Shree Yojana. Through this government scheme, she received financial assistance for maternity care.

After six months of delivery, she received the first instalment of Rs. 4,000, followed by a second instalment of Rs. 8,000, totalling Rs. 12,000 in benefits. This support was crucial in her recovery and helped ensure proper post-natal care for both mother and child.

Reshma's experience highlights the impact of the Namo Shree Yojana in providing essential maternal healthcare to women in rural areas. By offering financial aid and medical support, the scheme plays a vital role in ensuring safe deliveries and healthier futures for newborns.

"I am grateful for the support I received under Namo Shree Yojana. Due to health issues during my pregnancy, I had to return to my maternal home for delivery. With financial assistance of Rs. 12,000, I was able to get proper care for myself and my baby. This scheme truly helped me during a crucial time, ensuring a safe delivery and a healthy start for my child."

-Verbatim

In a significant milestone, 53 students from the villages of Vengani, Muller, Kalam, Pipaliya, Trankal, Ambhel, Goladara, Aladar, and Nandarkha have received financial aid under the PM Yashasvi Scholarship Scheme. Each student was granted Rs. 5,000, amounting to a total disbursement of Rs. 2,65,000 to support their education.

The application process commenced in November 2024, and after successful verification, the scholarship benefits were disbursed in February 2025. This timely financial assistance has alleviated the economic burden on students and their families, enabling them to pursue their education without hindrance.

This initiative underscores the transformative impact of government schemes in empowering rural students and expanding access to educational opportunities for a brighter future.

> Amara gaam ma Deepak foundation alag alag seva ni kamgiri kare che. Gram panchayat par Sangaath project dwara gani badhi sarkari yojanao ni mahiti temaj teno labh pan apava ma aave che. PM Yashasvi Scolarship Scheme no labh apava mate ame Sangaath project temaj Deepak sanstaha ne aabhar vyakt karie che.
>
> **-Beneficiary Testimonial**

> Deepak Foundation carries out various welfare initiatives in our village. Through the Sangaath Project, we have gained awareness and access to multiple government schemes. I am truly grateful to the Sangaath Project and Dipak Foundation for helping us avail the PM Yashasvi Scholarship Scheme.
>
> -Beneficiary Testimonial

05. TESTIMONIALS



Name: Sevariya Jahal Shelabhai

Village: Vardusar,Wankaner,Morbi

Class: 9

I am currently studying in Class 9. My father works as a farm laborer and supports our family with limited income. I have received benefits from the following government schemes:

Saraswati Sadhana Sahay Yojana – Under this scheme, all girls studying in Class 9 receive a free bicycle from the government.

Namo Lakshmi Yojana – Under this scheme, girls studying in Class 9 receive ₹500 per month from the government.

Under the **Sangaath Project** implemented by Deepak Foundation, the project staff helped me prepare the required documents such as:

- Income Certificate
- Caste Certificate

Through these schemes, I have received significant benefits. The financial assistance received under the Namo Lakshmi Yojana has helped us economically.
Since I live in a farm (wadi) area, it was difficult for me to travel to school. After receiving a bicycle under the Saraswati Sadhana Sahay Yojana, I am now able to go to school easily and regularly.

06. SUCESS STORY



78 HOUSEWIVES FROM HASANPUR (SHAKTIPARA), TIKAR, KHAKHRECHI VILLAGE PARTICIPATED IN THE TRAINING

Empowering Women through Mahila Vritika Training Yojana

In August 2024, application for Mahila Vrutika training was done for 78 women from Hasanpar (Shaktipara), Tikar, Khakhrechi village

They participated in a two-day fruit and vegetable conservation training under the "Mahila Vrutika Training Yojana." The training was facilitated by the supervisor of Prakalp Sangaath and local facilitators, with applications submitted online via the I-Khedut portal. Once approved, the training was conducted on 19th and 20th November 2024 at Hasanpar (Shaktipara) village 17th and 18th December 2024 at Tikar village, 4th and 5th February 2025 at Khakhrechi village, as part of the Women Empowerment and Nutrition Campaign, aligning with the Gujarat Government's new initiative to help rural women generate livelihood opportunities from home.

Organized by the Deepak Foundation under Prakalp Sangaath, the training was led by horticulture department officers from Morbi district. Women were trained to prepare a variety of fruit and vegetable-based products, including mixed vegetable pickle, guava lemon scotch, tomato ketchup, mixed fruit jam, topara na laddu, cabbage chevdo, and dates lemon pickle.

Expressing their gratitude to Deepak Foundation and its team, the participants shared how this valuable training helped them develop new skills and opened income-generating opportunities. As a part of the initiative, each participant received a daily stipend of Rs. 250 from the Horticulture Department, totalling Rs. 39,000 for the two-day training (78 beneficiaries * 2 days * Rs. 250).

MAHILA VRUTIKA TRAINING





MAHILA VRUTIKA TRAINING BENEFICIARIES

In April 2024, a total of 57 women from Suva and Narnavi villages, including Sakhi Mandal members and housewives, participated in a two-day fruit and vegetable preservation training under the "Mahila Vritika Training Yojana." The training was conducted through the I-Khedut portal, facilitated by the supervisor of Prakalp Sangaath and local field facilitators.

Online applications were submitted for the training, which was approved and conducted on July 9th and 10th, 2024, in Suva village, and on July 19th and 20th, 2024, in Narnavi village. This initiative, aligned with the Women Empowerment and Nutrition Campaign of the Gujarat Government, aimed to equip women with skills to generate sustainable income from home. The training program was organized by the Foundation under Prakalp Sangaath.

Horticulture department trainers from Bharuch district guided the participants in preparing various fruit- and vegetable-based products, including:

- Banana peel Sev, mango pickle, green date pickle, lemon chutney, pickled chili pickle, papaya slaw, and apple slaw.
- Coconut-based sweets, Jashood (hibiscus) sharbat, rose sharbat, raw mango sharbat, mango maaza, and tomato sauce.
- Rose aniseed mouth freshener.

The women expressed deep gratitude to the Deepak Foundation and its team for providing them with valuable training and skills, empowering them to learn and explore new opportunities.

07. KEY CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS



DOCUMENTATION GAPS

Incomplete or outdated documents continue to hinder timely application and approval of schemes.

LOW AWARENESS LEVELS

Limited understanding of scheme processes and eligibility criteria persists among some beneficiaries.

DIGITAL ILLITERACY

Lack of digital skills restricts beneficiaries' ability to independently access and navigate online application systems.

DEPENDENCE ON ONLINE SYSTEMS

Technical glitches and difficulties in accessing digital platforms create delays in application processing.

DELAYS IN APPROVALS

Administrative and procedural delays at the government level affect timely receipt of benefits.

UPFRONT FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS

Requirement of initial payment in subsidy-based schemes limits participation of economically weaker beneficiaries.

DELAYED REALIZATION OF BENEFITS

Some schemes involve long waiting periods, reducing immediate impact for beneficiaries.

08. RECOMMENDATIONS



Set up simple digital facilitation kiosks or help desks to address digital illiteracy and assist beneficiaries with online applications and document uploads.



Explore linkage with financial institutions, SHGs, or revolving funds to help beneficiaries manage initial payments required under subsidy-based schemes.



Train local volunteers or beneficiaries as resource persons to sustain awareness and support beyond project staff.



Conduct regular, village-level training sessions to build basic digital skills among beneficiaries, focusing on accessing government portals, and completing online applications. This can be supported through hands-on demonstrations, local language materials, and continuous assistance at digital help desks, enabling beneficiaries to gradually become self-reliant in accessing schemes and services.



The Mobile Sangaath Rath should be expanded to reach beneficiaries in remote areas who face time and cost constraints in accessing Jan Suvidha Kendras.

06. OECD–DAC EVALUATION FRAMEWORK



Relevance Coherence Effectiveness Efficiency Impact Sustainability

★★★★★

RELEVANCE

Access to government welfare schemes remains a critical challenge for rural and vulnerable populations due to low awareness, procedural complexity, and documentation barriers. The findings show that a significant proportion of beneficiaries belong to vulnerable groups such as farmers (45.8%), women, and the elderly, who often face income instability and limited access to social protection. The project directly addresses these gaps by providing last-mile facilitation, awareness, and application support, making it highly relevant to the needs of underserved communities.

★★★★★

COHERENCE

The project aligns well with national development priorities and welfare delivery systems. It strengthens the implementation of multiple government schemes related to agriculture, financial inclusion, social security, and basic services. The intervention complements broader goals such as poverty reduction, livelihood enhancement, and improved access to public services, while also supporting inclusive governance by bridging last-mile delivery gaps and enhancing the effectiveness of existing government programs.

★★★★½

EFFECTIVENESS

The project has been highly effective in improving awareness and access to government schemes. With 99.5% of respondents relying on project staff for information and 73.5% successfully accessing schemes, the intervention has significantly strengthened service delivery linkages. High satisfaction levels (over 94% very satisfied) and positive beneficiary experiences further indicate that the project has successfully achieved its objective of simplifying access and enabling benefit realization.

★★★★½

EFFICIENCY

The intervention demonstrates strong efficiency by reducing administrative and logistical burdens for beneficiaries. Around 65% of respondents did not need to visit government offices, and 83.2% received benefits within three months, indicating streamlined processes. The provision of information, documentation, and follow-up support at the community level minimized delays, reduced transaction costs, and ensured timely access to entitlements.

★★★★★

IMPACT

The project has generated significant socio-economic impact at the household level. Nearly all respondents (99.5%) reported improvement in family well-being, along with a reduction in financial burden. Access to a mix of benefits including cash support and livelihood schemes has contributed to enhanced income security and resilience. Additionally, increased awareness and confidence have led to behavioural changes, with 99.8% expressing willingness to apply for schemes in the future.

★★★★

SUSTAINABILITY

The project demonstrates strong potential for sustainability through its focus on awareness generation, capacity building, and behaviour change. High dependence on information support (72.5%) indicates that once awareness gaps are addressed, beneficiaries are more likely to independently access schemes in the future. Strong community trust, high satisfaction levels, and continued willingness to engage with government systems suggest long-term sustainability of outcomes, supported by ongoing facilitation and institutional linkages.



Index : 5 Points - Very High ; 4 Points - High ; 3 Points - Moderate ; 2 Points - Low ; 1 Point - Very Low

08 CONCLUSION

The assessment of the Sangaath Project highlights its significant role in strengthening last-mile delivery of government welfare schemes and improving access for underserved communities. By addressing key barriers such as lack of awareness, procedural complexity, and documentation challenges, the project has enabled beneficiaries to access entitlements more effectively.

The intervention has successfully reached vulnerable groups, particularly farmers, women, and the elderly, ensuring targeted support. Its facilitation model focused on awareness, application assistance, and follow-up has improved access, reduced the need for government office visits, and supported timely receipt of benefits. High satisfaction levels reflect the quality and responsiveness of service delivery. The project has contributed to improved household well-being, with beneficiaries reporting reduced financial burden and enhanced economic stability. Access to diverse schemes has supported broader socio-economic development. Increased willingness to apply for schemes in the future indicates growing awareness and confidence among beneficiaries.

While challenges such as digital illiteracy, documentation gaps, and delays persist, the project has established a strong foundation for inclusive and transparent service delivery, with clear potential for scalability and long-term impact.